MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Cullman Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

DUCK RIVER CHURCH,

October 21, 22, 23 and 24th, 1897.

OFFICERS:

REV. L. MULLINS, MODERATOR, ... Cullman, Ala.
J. D. SMALL, CLERK, ... Hanceville, Ala.
B. E. JACKSON, TREASURER, ... Hanceville, Ala.

CULLMAN, ALA.,
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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises, Thirty minutes.
2. Introductory Sermon. Adjourn one hour.
3. Association called to order by Moderator, or Clerk, in the absence of the Moderator. Appoint two brethren as reading Clerks.
4. Call for, read letters and enroll delegates.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Appointment of necessary Committees.
8. Call for correspondence.
9. Return correspondence.
10. Call for reports of Committees.
11. Appointment of time and place of District Mee tngs.
12. Select place for next Annual Meeting of the Association.
13. Miscellaneous business.
14. Appointment of standing Committees.
15. Adjourn.

MINUTES.

The Cullman Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment, with Duck River Church, on Thursday, October 21st, 1897, at 10 o'clock, a. m. Devotional services were conducted by Bro. R. C. Ledbetter, for twenty minutes.

The brother who was to have preached the introductory sermon not being present, Bro. William Teague was called to the stand and preached one of his best sermons, at the close of which the Association adjourned one hour for dinner.

1 o'clock, p. m.—Association met in the house. The Moderator and Clerk both being absent, Bro. R. C. Ledbetter was made Moderator, pro. tem., and J. D. Small, Clerk, pro. tem.

Appointed as reading Clerks, Bros. J. D. Keith and C. A. Owen.

The roll of churches was then called, letters received and delegates enrolled as follows:

Missionary Grove—J. K. P. Byrum, W. W. Coggins, D. S. Johnson.

New Home—W. W. Kelsoe, G. W. Noles.

Simcoe—J. D. Lovelady, George H. Mitchell, G. L. Brindley.

West Cullman—J. M. Brown, W. J. Horton, T. J. Lynn.

Pleasant Grove—J. Gurley, W. T. King.

Logan—A. H. Speakman.

Hopewell—J. D. Small, A. A. Self, H. A. Henderson, L. Mullins, A. Adams.

First Cullman—H. Adkins.

Good Hope—H. G. Owen, R. J. Livingston, Henry Cofer, C. A. Owen.

Cold Spring—J. N. Hardin, J. D. Garrison.

Emens—John Sewell.

Ebenezer—W. S. Banks, G. W. Walker, H. i. Little.

Concord—W. T. Wright, J. M. Yeager, J. M. Philpot.

Beech Grove—Nathan Elliott.

Bethlehem, West—E. Whisenhunt, R. A. Rooker.

Bangor—D. C. Rodgers, J. P. Rodgers.

Bethsaida—William Bradford.

Fairview—A. M. Edwards, Harvey Edwards.

Ryan's Creek—T. A. Morrow, J. J. C. Calvert.
Duck River—J. S. Brown, C. C. Bice, J. J. Martin.
Bethlehem, East—J. P. Williams, Griff Todd, R. A. Greer.
Center Hill—J. W. Starnes, J. A. Absher.
El-Bethel—J. H. Speegle, G. F. Moon.
Sardis—J. M. Leverett, J. L. Bridges.
Mt. Hope—W. T. Tucker, W. H. Harris, J. D. Chaney.
Pilgrim's Rest—A. B. Jackson, W. G. Jackson, R. D. Dunlap.

Called for petitionary letters, when the following were received:
Welcome: W. F. Knapp, J. A. Perkins.
Harmony: W. W. Bryant. W. J. Hudson.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted as follows: Rev. L. Mullins, Moderator; J. D. Small, Clerk; B E. Jackson, Treasurer.

Called for and received correspondence from the following Associations: Warrior River—W. H. Absher, J. M. Dannel, Robert Davis. Sulphur Spring—D. L. James, John D. Keith. Marshall—G. F. King.

Returned correspondence, as follows: Warrior River—R. C. Ledbetter, H. W. Little, J. M. Philpot. Sulphur Spring—C. A. Owen, W. H. Cofer, J. H. Speegle, J. A. Absher. Marshall—Wm. Teague, W. W. Kelsoe. Muscle Shoals—H. Adkins, R. J. Fuller. Clear Creek—A. H. Speakman, J. H. Harbison, J. J. C. Calvert.

On motion, Resolved, That any member of this Association being present at the meeting of any other Association, is authorized to act as a correspondent.

The Moderator appointed devotional committee, as follows: John D. Lovelady, R. J. Livingston, and the Deacons of Duck River church.

Committee on deceased Ministers.—H. W. Little, D. S. Johnson.
" On Documents.—John Sewell, R. A. Rooker, G. W. Walker.
" On Finance.—J. M. Leverett, H. A. Henderson, W. T. Tucker.
" On State of Religion.—R. C. Ledbetter, C. A. Owen, R. D. Dunlap.
" On Queries.—C. A. Owen, J. M. Bottoms, R. C. Ledbetter.

On motion Association adjourned until 8:30 o'clock, Friday morning. Prayer by the Moderator.

FRIDAY MORNING, 8 :30.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. A. H. Speakman.

The regular order of business was taken up, and the following Standing Committees were appointed to report at the next session of this body, to wit:

On Sabbath Schools—B. E. Jackson, D. S. Johnson, C. W. Whaley.
On State, Home and Foreign Missions—William Bradford. Samuel Brown, J. H. Harbison.

On Temperance.—J. A. Basham, H. A. Henderson, W. W. Coggins.

On Education.—I. Windsor, P. M. Matthews, I. S. Allbritton.

The Moderator then appointed the following brethren as delegates to the State Convention: C. A. Owen, B. E. Jackson, L. Mullins, J. M. Bottoms, R. C. Ledbetter, William Bradford, R. A. Rooker, D. S. Johnson.

On motion, Will G. Brown was appointed a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, and J. H. Dunlap, alternate.

Called for report of Executive Committee. (Only a part of the Committee being present they made no report.)

Called for report on Finance, which was received, read and adopted.

Called for and received report on Education. After being ably discussed by several brethren, it was unanimously adopted (See report.)

The regular order of business was suspended and a letter received from Pilgrim's Rest.

Adjourned at 11 o'clock for preaching by Bro. D. L. James.

1 o'clock, P. M.—Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Whatley.

Called for and received report on Sunday Schools. After able discussion in favor, the report was adopted, with resolution attached.—(See report.)

On motion the Association held a Memorial service in memory of Brother Wiley Johnston, one of our aged and respected ministers, who has been called from our midst during this year, and who leaves an aged wife and invalid daughter upon the cold charities of the world.—At the close of the memorial service there was a collection taken up for the benefit of the widow and daughter of the deceased brother.—(See amount in Treasurer's report.)

Read and received report on Documents. Its adoption was deferred until Saturday, 1 o'clock.

Received the report on Queries, the discussion of which was deferred until 8:30 o'clock, Saturday morning. Adjourned.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and called to order by the Moderator.—Prayer by Bro. J. D. Keith.

Called up the report on Queries. Each query was discussed and adopted separately, and, on motion the report was adopted as a whole.—(See report.)

Received and adopted report on State of Religion. (See report.)

Received and adopted report on Bible and Colportage work. (See report.)

Received report on Missions. On motion the report was unanimously adopted.

The Association then took a recess for preaching by Bro. John A. Basham on the subject of missions—Text, John 5th and 8th. At the close of which dinner was served.

1:30, oclock.—The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. Owen.

Report on Documents received and adopted.

On motion, appointed Rev. L. Mullins to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session; Bro. W. H. Guthrie, alternate.

On motion, Bro. C. A. Owen to preach the missionary sermon, and Bro. J. A. Basham, alternate.

The report on Finance read and adopted.

On motion, the Treasurer was directed to settle the balance due Bro. R. C. Ledbetter and sister Eidson for her husband for services rendered by those brethren as evangelists in 1893, and to distribute the remainder of the mission funds as directed in the letters from the different churches.

A motion passed allowing the Clerk $10 00 for his services, and to expend the remainder of the Minute fund in printing and distributing minutes to the churches.

On motion the Clerk was directed to insert in minutes the Articles of Faith and Constitution.

On motion the Moderator appointed the following Executive Committee to serve for the ensuing year, to wit: J. K. P. Byrum, J. M. Leverett, W. J. Horton, R. J. Fuller, H. A. Henderson.

On motion the Executive Board be instructed to co-operate with the State Mission Board, and to direct the mission work in our bounds as they may think best.

The list of delegates was then called and corrected.

Read and adopted report on Temperance

Read and adopted report of Treasurer.

District meetings was then appointed as follows: First District Meeting at Missionary Grove, on the 5th Sunday in May, 1898, commencing on Friday before.—Bro. L. Mullins to preach the introductory. Second District Meeting at New Home, on the 5th Sunday in July, 1898, commencing Friday before—Bro. Bagwell to preach the introductory.

On motion that the Pastor and Deacons of church where these District meetings are to be held, publish sixty days before each meeting the questions to be discussed at these meetings.

On motion, the Association then adjourned.

Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock the Association met pursuant to adjournment, after singing, prayer was offered by Bro. Dannel.

The report on Sunday Schools was then called up and the discussion opened by Bro. L. Mullins. Discussion continued by Bros. Basham and G. L. Brindley. The discussion then closed for preaching; services conducted by Bro. John A. Bashham, at the close of which, a resolution of thanks was offered by the Moderator to Duck River Church and community for the kindness shown the Association and its members during

the session. The Association then adjourned after singing and prayer by Bro. G. L. Brindley, to meet with Pleasant Grove Church, 10 miles west of Cullman, on Thursday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1898, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

L. Mullins, Moderator.

J. D. Small, Clerk.

REPORT ON QUERIES.

We, your committee on Queries, beg leave to report the following: We find in the letters three queries: 1st.—"What connection has a member to the church after he draws a letter from the same? Answer—The same as before, until joined to another church of the same Faith and order." 2d query.—"Has a deacon the right to administer the Lord's Supper in the absence of the pastor? Answer—If so directed by the church." 3rd.—"Has he the right to administer baptism? Answer—No."

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. Owen, Chairman.

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

With pleasure we note from reading of the letters from various churches, that the spiritual condition of our Association is better than ever before. A large majority of our churches have weekly prayer-meetings and Sunday Schools. We suggest that every church have prayer-meeting fifty-two weeks in the year and also Sunday School, and that pastors indoctrinate the churches more in the future.

Respectfully,

R. C. Ledbetter, Chairman.

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

We, your committee, submit the following: Brethren, there is no work of more importance than distributing the word of God, and circulating literature that is calculated to build up and establish our people in the faith and enable them to give a reason for the hope that is within them. Many Associations have their own colporter, who devotes most of their time to the work, and we hope the time is not far distant when you will select one of your number and send him on his errand of love to disseminate the Truth and Word of Life among the people.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. Basham, Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following: Abstainance from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, is essential to our progress as a christian body, and so important a factor in the life and influence of a christian and the salvation of our people, especially our boys, that this Association cannot consistently retain within its membership any church that fails to exclude, after due admonition, any member who is guilty of HABITUAL DRAM DRINKING, and we believe ministers of our Lord should refuse the care of churches who persistently fail to withdraw from such brethren. And we further advise that churches refuse to call to their charge any minister guilty of frequenting saloons or drinking drams as a beverage. We are thankful to God we can report an improvement among our brethren and churches during the last year along this line; and we hope and pray God that the brethren will leave the practice of intoxication with the wicked, and keep themselves unspotted from the world and never offend one of the

feast of God's children again by taking part and encouraging this one of the greatest evils of our land. Respectfull submitted,

A. H. Speakman, Chairman.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We, your committee on Ministerial Education, report as follows: The two most important facts to be considered in education are: That everything we learn forms a part of our knowledge, and that a part of the august command of the Savior was "Go teach all nations." Ignorance and superstition, sin and prejudice cannot rule where religious and Scientific Education reigns. Every profession except the ministry requires its agents to attain a certain degree of efficiency before they enter the field. Why not the man of God, who speaks upon the most sublime subject of earth, be most proficient in his preparation? We must tolerate, in practice, the theory of Two-Seed-ism, God do all, man nothing, or educate our ministry. The idea of educating so deeply pervades our country that the preacher must educate In order to keep pace with his hearers. Paul said to Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved." We would suggest that each minister of this Association attend some good school or college, as Good Hope school, Danville Institute, or Howard College. May the Lord help us, and send earnest and proficient laborers into the vineyard.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. Owen, Chairman.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, find from the reading of the letters from the different churches, that the interest in this grand work has been greatly improved, and we recommend that each delegate exert his influence to continue the work among the churches.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Little, Chairman.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted and attached to the above report:

Resolved, That each church that has no Sabbath School should at once go to work and get up a school for at least six months in the year, for we think that no church can afford to do without one.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Ministers, report as follows:

Since our last meeting one of our ministers have passed away, to wit: Bro. Wiley Johnston, who was a faithful servant in the cause of Christ. We also find that he left a widow and one daughter in a helpless condition. We, therefore, recommend that an appropriate memorial service be held by this body in his memory.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Little, Chairman.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, report as follows:

There being five churches calling for this body to meet with them, to wit: Bethlehem, East; Beach Grove, Good Hope, New Home and Pleasant Grove. Bethlehem, East and New Home being East of the Railroad, we think they have no claims, according to former custom.—Good Hope and Beech Grove, both, having already had the Association.

We, therefore, recommend that the next Association meet with Pleasant Grove. Respectfully submitted,

JOHN SEWELL, Chairman.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Missions, are not able to give the work done within our own bounds, but are satisfied that great good has been done through the co-operative work done with the State Board. We, therefore, recommend that this Association settle their former indebtedness with former evangelist, and continue to co-operate with the State Board.

B. E. JACKSON, Chairman.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your committee report the following amounts which have come into our hands:

For Minutes,	$ 27 48
For State Missions,	19 24
" Home "	5 35
" Foreign "	11 15
" Ministerial Education,	1 00
Amount previously paid Bro. Sandlin for State missions,	19 30
Total,	$84 02

Respectfully submitted, J. M. LEVERETT, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Amount on hand from last year,	$ 3 00
Received from Finance committee for Minutes,	27 48
" State missions,	19 24
" Home "	5 35
" Foreign, "	11 15
" Ministerial education	1 00
Collection for sister Eidson	2 20
" for sister Johnston,	6 38
" for Missions,	6 08
Total	$81 88

Paid out as follows—For printing Minutes	$27 48
To Bro. R. C. Ledbetter for services	16 20
To sister Eidson	6 20
Collection to sister Johnston	6 38
Total	$56 26
Balance on hand,	$25 62

Respectfully submitted, B. E. JACKSON, Treas.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

A. Mewbourn, Cullman, Ala.
I. Windsor, Hanceville,
T. E. Hays, Hanceville,
W. M. Smith, Bremen,
J. A. Basham, Glade,
G. W. Bragg, Trimble,
A. Adams, Hanceville,
I. J. Helms, Hanceville,
W. H. Guthrie, Logan,
J. M. Bottoms, Logan,
G. L. Brindley, Simcoe,
J. A. Perkins, Baileyton,
C. B. Wilhite, Falkville,
S. Henderson, Birmingham,
H. D. Rainwater, Pinnacle,
R. M. Presley, Glade,
R. C. Ledbetter, Walter,
C. A. Owen, Glade,
W. H. McSwain, Glade,
L. Mullins, Cullman,
G. W. Chandler, Johnson's Crossing.
P. R. Tennyson, Holly Pond,
J. H. Harbison, Crane Hill,
J. H. Dunlap, Cullman,
P. M. Musgrove, Cullman,
William Teague, Bright.

LIST OF LICENTIATES.

S. L. Butler, Cullman, Ala.,
W. J. Woods, Cullman,
N. D. Mayo, Walter,
J. W. Barnett, Walter,
D. H. Burnum, Battle Ground, Ala.
G. W. Noles, Summit,
P. M. Bland, Hanceville,
J. H. Freeman, Crane Hill,
C. I. Holloway, Logan, Ala.

NOTE.—This list is perhaps incorrect, as the names of but few Licentiates were given in the letters from the churches, and not many of the ordained Ministers. I have compiled the table from the best information I could get. The Clerks of churches will please be careful in the future to fill up the blanks furnished them for that purpose.—CLERK.

MEETING OF ASSOCIATIONS.

The following Associations will meet as follows:

Muscle Shoals—Thursday before the first Sunday in October, 1898.

Sulphur Springs—Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1898.

Marshall—Meets on the same day as above.

Warrior River—Friday before the third Sunday in October, '98, at Holly Pond church.

The places of the meeting of the other Associations are not known to the Clerk, at present.

MINUTES OF DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The questions discussed and the answers given at the District meeting at Simcoe, the 5th Sunday in May last, were as follows:

1st Query—"The best plan for the support of our Pastors?" Answer. "Churches in making their call should notify him of the amount that they are willing to pay him; then the Deacons should do all they can to raise the amount.

2nd Query—"What is the Scripture plan in dealing with a disorderly

member?" Answer—"When we are satisfied that a member is guilty of a public offense to withdraw from him at once.

ry.—"How should a church proceed when they have received a member who stands excluded from a sister church?" Answer—"The church should recind their act at once, and make satisfaction to the offended church."

4th Query—"Should we endorse having socials and suppers for the purpose of raising money to defray church expenses?" Answer—"We should not."

At the meeting held with Bethlehem church the following Queries were answered:

1st—"What is the difference, if any, between the church and the kingdom?"—Carried over to the next district meeting.

2nd—"Is foot washing held as a church ordinance by Missionary Baptists?" Answer—"It is not."

3rd—"Should a church receive an applicant for membership who say they were baptised during the war by a Baptist minister, there being no other evidence?" Answer.—"We should not receive such an applicant."

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and, therefore, is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christain union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD.

We believe there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love. That in the unity of the God-head, there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every Divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. OF THE FALL OF MAN.

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners not by constraint, but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and, therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with Divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

V. OF JUSTIFICATION.

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on the principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God—that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.

We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with Divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith and newness of life.

VIII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy: at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

IX. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end: that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believed the gospel; and that it is the foundation of Christain assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. OF SANCTIFICATION.

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denail, watchfulness and prayer.

XI. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS.

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL.

We believe the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from the love of sin: to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of bap-

tized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, and rights privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.

We believe that Christain Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

We believe that Civil Government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

XVII. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief, are in his sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. OF THE WORLD TO COME.

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy: and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in Heaven or Hell, on principles of righteousness.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be known as the CULLMAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, and shall meet annually at such time and place as the Association may appoint.

2. It shall be composed of the Bishops and three messengers from each church in the Association.

3. The objects of this Association are to promote practical piety in our churches to extend the Redeemer's kingdom on earth; to assists young ministers in preparing for the ministry; to provide for the support of worn-out ministers and the families of deceased ministers that need help.

4. Any Baptist church of our faith and order may, by a petitionary letter and messengers, become a member of this Association by a unanimous vote of the body in session—the Moderator giving the hand of fellowship to the messengers.

5. That each church in this body will furnish its proportionate part of the means for carrying out the objects of this Association, set forth in Article 3 of this constitution.

6. This Association shall at each session appoint a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer. The Moderator shall preside over the body and keep order. The Clerk shall keep correct minutes of the business done by the body. The Treasurere shall receive all moneys put into his hands for Associational purposes, pay it out by order of the Association and make annual report of the same.

7. This Association will withdraw fellowship from any church that fails to discipline its members, if guilty, for wicked and disorderly conduct, or any other departure from the faith and practice of the gospel.

8. This Association shall appoint three quarterly meetings between the sessions of the Association. These meetings shall be composed of Bishops and Deacons in this Association and any members the churches may send. The design of these meetings is to promote unity in faith and practice and the acquirement of religious knowledge.

9. This Association shall at each session appoint one of her Bishops to preach an introductory sermon, and another one to preach a missionary sermon at the next session of the body.

10. This Association, through its Executive Board, shall co-operate with the State Mission Board and the Alabama Baptist State Convention in supplying the destitution in our own bounds, or elsewhere in this state.

11. This Association adopts the articles of faith known as the New Hampsshire Confession, found in Crewell's Church Members' Hand Book.

12. The minutes of each session of this Association shall be read, approved and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

13. This constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present.

STATISTICS OF CULLMAN ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	Membership Last Reported.	Increase by: Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Decrease by: Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.	Present Membership.	Days of Meeting.	Minutes.	Missions.	Ministerial Education.
Bethsaida	A. Mewbourn	J W Adams	Cullman.	48	6	3		8	2		1	46	4	$ 1 00	$ 4 10	
Bethlehem (E)	W H Absher.	Joe Baker.	Hanceville	36	4	1	2	3	1			58	3	1 00	2 45	
Bangor	I Windsor.	Oscar McAnnally	Bangor	39		2						26	2		3 25	
Bethlehem (W)	H D Rainwater	J J Creel.	Battleground	34	4			1				33	2	75	1 07	$ 1 00
Beech Grove	T E Hays	N H Elliott	Hanceville	50	9	9	2				2	68	4	58		
*Bethany.				34												
First Cullman	J A Howard.	C O Adkins	Cullman					2			1	75	1	1 25		
Concord	J C Whatley	J W Yeager	Loyd	35	17	1	2	7				48	3	1 00	1 05	
Center Hill.	J C Whatley	W J Allred	Walter	29	5	1		1				34	4	1 00	2 10	
Cold Springs	F M Leeth	J B Willoughby	Bremen.	12	5	7						24	1	65		
Duck River	I J Helms	W M Davis	Walter	28	7	12	1	5				43	3	1 25	3 00	
Ebenezer	J A Basham	J F Walker	Tillery	58	3	2	2	3			1	61	3	1 00	78	
*Enon				33								33				
Emeus	H D Rainwater	John Sewell.	Logan	34	1		2	4				33	3	50	1 50	
El Bethel	C A Owen	L A Moon	Bremen.	59	2	1		4		5		53	3	1 00	10	
Flint Creek		J E Pope	Pinnacle	65								65				
Fairview	I Windsor.	J L Ashley	Bangor	36	1		1	5				33	4	1 00		
Good Hope	John D Keith	W A Taylor	Glade.	119	35	7	2	3	*3			163	1	2 00	1 77	
Hopewell	L Mullins	J D Small	Hanceville	100	10	10	3	2			1	120	4	1 70	1 70	
*Liberty																
*Lawrence Cove																
Logan	W H Guthrie	A B Speakman	Logan	47		1		2				46	1	1 10	9 10	
Mt. Hope	G W Gibson	J G Land	Crane Hill	74		4	2	20		1		59	4	1 00	1 25	
*Mt. Zion				27								27				
*Macedonia				11								11				
Missionary Grove	L Mullins.	W W Coggins.	Cullman	26	17	14	2	4				55	1	1 00	2 45	
New Home	J E Bagwell	H J Preston	Baileyton	66	34	7	5	6	1		1	104	2	1 05	1 05	
Pleasant Grove	W H Guthrie	W T King.	Logan.	41	5	2		1	1			46	2	75	6 72	
Pilgram's Rest	S J Cox	W T Murphy	Walter	31	5	2		6	1			31	2	75	2 60	
Ryan's Creek	C A Owen	W J Tucker	Crane Hill	113	26	3		5	8		1	128	2	1 50	60	
Simcoe	W H Absher	G C Glasscock	Simcoe	37	5	8		4				44	1	95	2 25	
Sardis	J A Basham	James Hancock	Burch	42	10	3		1				51	2	80	2 75	
West Cullman	W H Absher.	J M Brown	Cullman	35	8	1		8			1	35	2	1 00	3 03	
†Harmony	Geo. Gibson.	W J Hudson	Ruby.									24	3	50		
†Welcome	Jas Buchanan	R L Cason	Baileyton									37	2	1 00		
Totals				1390	236	101	26	105	17	6	9	1712		$27 48	$55 77	$ 1 00

†New Churches. *Not represented.